

SCALEABLE HARDWARE ARBITER**ABSTRACT**

An arbiter which arbitrates between a plurality of clients generating requests for access to a resource in a computing environment, including a memory which includes for each of the plurality of clients a request register, which is adapted to record the respective client's access requests, and a next-client pointer, which is adapted to record an identification of another one of the clients making a subsequent request to access the resource, so as to form a linked list of the requests. The arbiter further includes logic circuitry which is adapted to decide, responsive to the linked list, which of the plurality of clients is given access to the resource.